

SUMMARY OF MINUTES FOR COMMUNITY TRAILS REVIEW MEETING

Held on May 14, 2007

On May 14, 2007 Public Works staff facilitated a public meeting to discuss the draft Trails and Natural Resources Study. The meeting was held at 7pm at the City's Community and Cultural Center. Representing the Public Works Department was Jim Ashcraft, Director, Karl Bjarke, Deputy Director for Engineering, and David Gittleson, Associate Engineer and project manager for this effort. Also present were representatives from Royston, Hanamoto, Alley, and Abey (RHAA), the consultant authors of the draft study. Approximately 250 members of the public were in attendance. Based on a show of hands, only 8 of the attendees were not from the Jackson Oaks area.

The purpose of the meeting was to present the draft version of the "Trails and Natural Resources Study", record comments and answer questions. The draft Study was available for public comment in February 2007. RHAA prepared and delivered a power-point presentation of the draft Trails Study, which included; purpose, benefits, misconceptions and identified the proposed major trails systems and connection points.

Before the presentation started, Jim Ashcraft clarified for the audience that this Study is only the beginning of the process and was needed to determine the feasibility of a trail system; that all trail locations are conceptual, and before any trail could be built a Trail Master Plan would have to be developed. The process for getting a Trail Master Plan completed could take one year minimum but likely longer. Jim further stated that all trails proposed on private property would require willing land owners in order to build.

After the presentation by RHAA, thirty-one audience members spoke, with 25 of them opposing the trails in the open space area adjacent to their homes in the Jackson Oaks area. Only 2 speakers were there to support some type of trail system in the Jackson Oaks area. Of the four speakers outside of the Jackson Oaks area, one spoke against trails near the Middle and Maple intersection, the other three spoke against trails on private property on or near El Toro mountain.

Many of the comments received were similar to ones staff recorded at the public meeting held at the Jackson Oaks HOA clubhouse on May 7, 2007. There were five major issues presented by the Jackson Oaks home owners regarding the construction of trails in the open space area adjacent to their homes. They resoundingly feel that the proposed trails would: 1) Increase the existing fire hazard risk, 2) Bring in intruders and thereby increasing crime, 3) Result in 'outsiders' parking along the narrow streets to access these trails, 4) Would reduce privacy in their backyards, and 5) Negatively impact the wildlife in the area. The meeting lasted for nearly 2 1/2 hours.

At the end of the meeting, Jim announced that the City would make available on the City's website; RHAA power-point presentation, trail study references, and the meeting minutes for both meetings. Mike Purser stated that the JOA Board would hold a special meeting and vote on this issue this week.